

# Flood News for Michigan Floodplain Managers



A quarterly newsletter of the  
Land and Water Management Division  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
[www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq)  
Russell J. Harding, Director

John Engler, Governor

June 2002

## Floodplain Mapping Needs Survey

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is in the process of updating and modernizing the Nation's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). It has been estimated that over \$800 million of floodplain mapping needs exist in the Nation. This estimate is in excess of the annual \$50 million expenditure for the floodplain mapping program. To date, the FEMA's mapping budget has never been enough to address the needs that were identified. However, the Bush administration's 2003 budget includes an appropriation of \$351 million for floodplain map modernization, with similar appropriations expected in budget years 2004 and 2005.

If the proposed appropriation is approved (and it is very likely that it will), there will be a tremendous increase in floodplain mapping activity. While it may be premature to speculate on how much of the mapping money would be coming to Michigan for the mapping effort, it is not too early to identify areas that need new or updated floodplain maps. The enclosed Floodplain Mapping Needs Survey will be used to assist the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to prepare a plan for the FEMA that will identify potential study areas, identify mapping needs, and include priorities for updating Michigan's floodplain maps.

While the potential floodplain mapping money would be larger than has been allocated in the past, the money will not be limitless. With over 1200 communities in Michigan without maps, and the average map age of about 16.5 years, there will be plenty of demand for the new mapping money. With this in mind, it is essential that each community or county take a few minutes and fill out the enclosed survey to make sure the floodplain mapping needs are properly identified. This is your chance to identify the needs of your community and Michigan's opportunity to identify to the FEMA, the floodplain mapping needs Statewide. Even if you believe that your community does not have a current or future flooding problem, please respond by indicating that there is low flood damage potential in the community. If you are not a county or a community representative, but have knowledge of unidentified flooding problems, problems with a FIRM, or knowledge of data that would be useful in completing a hydrologic or hydraulic study of a watershed, we encourage your input. All responses will be useful in helping us identify the floodplain mapping needs of the State.

The FEMA has put the mapping process on a "fast-track" and will require each State to submit a mapping plan by mid August 2002. To help us meet that goal, we ask that you complete and return the enclosed survey to us by July 19, 2002.

If you have any questions on the survey, please contact Bruce Menerey of the MDEQ, Land and Water Management Division, at 517-335-3181; e-mail address: [menereyb@michigan.gov](mailto:menereyb@michigan.gov).

## **Survey Deadline July 19, 2002**

For questions, comments, or information, contact:

George Hosek  
MDEQ  
LWMD  
P.O. Box 30458  
Lansing, MI 48909-7958

Telephone: 517-335-3182  
Fax: 517-373-9965  
e-mail:  
[hosekg@michigan.gov](mailto:hosekg@michigan.gov)

The MDEQ will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, or political beliefs. Questions or concerns should be directed to:

MDEQ  
Office of Personnel Services  
P.O. Box 30473  
Lansing, MI 48909

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# Floodplain Map Modernization in Michigan Floodplain Mapping Needs Survey

**Respondent Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title/Position** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **County** \_\_\_\_\_

If you are filling out a form for more than one community, please make a copy of this form, or down load a copy from our web-site at [www.michigan.gov/deg](http://www.michigan.gov/deg) (click on water; then water management, then national flood insurance, then Flood News for Michigan Floodplain Managers).

## I. General Information

1. Are you familiar with the floodplain maps for this community?  
☐ No      ☐ Somewhat      ☐ Very      ☐ Community does not have a floodplain map
2. Are you familiar with the National Flood Insurance Program?  
☐ No      ☐ Somewhat      ☐ Very
3. Who does the building inspection in the community?  
☐ Community    ☐ County      ☐ State      ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Do not know

Please rate the following statements from "Low" (does not really apply to this community) to "High" (most definitely applies to this community). If you are unsure of the answer, circle the X under "do not know".

	<u>Low</u>					<u>High</u>	<u>Do not know</u>
4. Development pressure in flood-prone areas	1	2	3	4	5		X
5. Past flood damages have occurred in the community in areas <u>within</u> a mapped floodplain	1	2	3	4	5		X
6. Past flood damages have occurred in the community in areas <u>within</u> a mapped floodplain	1	2	3	4	5		X
7. Repetitive flooding damages have occurred to existing structures (excluding sewer back-up)	1	2	3	4	5		X
8. Updated or new floodplain maps are needed	1	2	3	4	5		X
9. Better flood elevation information is needed	1	2	3	4	5		X
10. The community can provide some cost-share (such as topographic information or field survey cost) towards updating or creating a new floodplain map	1	2	3	4	5		X

## II. Problem Areas - Mapped Floodplains

Are there problems with the floodplain (flood hazard) areas shown on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map/Flood Hazard Boundary Map.?

☐Yes ☐No ☐Community does not have a map

**If no, or there is no map, skip to Section III (Problem Areas - Unmapped Floodplains);**

If yes, please check the box(es) of the problems with the existing floodplain map:

1. ☐ Floodplain delineation is not accurate  
Please provide a description or a map of areas for which you think the floodplain delineation is not correct.
  
2. ☐ Floodway is not plotted correctly  
Please provide a description or a map of areas in which you think the floodway delineation is not correct.
  
3. ☐ Elevation Reference Marks are needed
  
4. ☐ Flood elevations are not accurate. Check all that apply.  

Bridges/culverts/dams have been replaced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stream alterations have been made	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upstream detention has been constructed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upstream development has increased runoff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Past flood events have produced higher flood elevations than shown on the map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Past flood events have produced lower flood elevations than shown on the map	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please list any other information that suggests the flood elevations may be in error.

Please provide a map or a description of the areas where you think the flood elevations are not correct.

## II. Problem Areas - Mapped Floodplains (Continued)

5. ☐ There are floodplain areas shown that do not have a flood elevation established (areas are shown as Zone A).

List by priority/need the areas in the community which are mapped as Zone A, but need flood elevation information (attach a map if needed).

Watercourse

Upstream Study Limit

Downstream Study Limit

6. ☐ Corporate boundaries are not correct.  
Please provide a map showing the correct boundary limits.
7. ☐ Roads/Streets not identified or incorrectly identified.

## III. Problem Areas - Unmapped Floodplains

Are there unmapped floodplain areas in the community that are prone to flooding?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not Sure

**If you answered No, or Not Sure, skip to Section IV (Available Information).**

If you answered yes, please continue.

Are there unmapped areas prone to flooding which are currently developed or will likely develop in the next 20 years?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not Sure

**If No, skip to Section IV (Available information)**

Please list unmapped areas (from highest priority to lowest priority) within the community that needs floodplain mapping. Please note that the FEMA will not map streams where the drainage area is less than one square mile (640 acres). A map showing the suggested study areas would also be useful.

Watercourse

Upstream Study Limit

Downstream Study Limit

#### IV. Available Information

Does any of the following information exist that could be made available to the FEMA in the preparation of a floodplain map?

	Yes	No	Unknown
Detailed hydraulic/hydrologic study within the community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Topographic information, other than USGS quadrangle maps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elevation reference marks/bench marks (referenced to a common datum such as NGVD 29, NAVD 88, IGLD 85)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aerial photography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stream crossing structure information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveyed stream cross sectional information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High-water marks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Record of Lake levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geographic Information System data layers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, what data layers are available			

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List other information that is available that may be useful in the preparation of a floodplain map in this community.

Thank you for your assistance in filling out this survey by July 19, 2002.

Please return to:

**Bruce Menerey**  
**Michigan Department of Environmental Quality**  
**Land and Water Management Division**  
**P.O. Box 30458**  
**Lansing, Michigan 48909-7958**

If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Menerey at 517-335-3181, e-mail: [menereyb@michigan.gov](mailto:menereyb@michigan.gov)  
Fax: 517-373-9965.